FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 AUGUST 1985

Lebanon

The cabinet began its scheduled session in Bikfayya 22 August, although Ministers Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and Joseph Skaf were absent, Beirut radio reported. The session came after further artillery exchanges in Beirut 21 August when shells fell on runways at the international airport, destroying an airliner and preventing aircraft from taking off or landing, according to the radio. Forces on the Christian side destroyed two enemy artillery emplacements and two T-54 tanks 21 August, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. In another military development, an Amal Movement source cited by Beirut radio announced that unidentified planes attempted to bomb Amal positions in and around Hazzirta, between the Upper al-Matn and Zahlah. Ground fire prevented the aircraft from achieving their objectives, the source maintained. Meanwhile, the southern coastal road was crowded with hundreds of vehicles carrying families seeking refuge from the fighting, according to the radio, which also noted that Amal militia in Tyre arrested the drivers of two booby-trapped cars.

Israel-Egypt

Egyptian police arrested a suspect in connection with the assassination of Israeli diplomat Albert Atrakchi, according to an Egyptian security source cited by Radio Monte Carlo. Meanwhile, the Egyptian tourism minister told Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in Jerusalem that Egypt is lifting all the restrictions it had imposed on tourism to Israel, Jerusalem radio reported.

In Libya, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio's political editor welcomed the "heroic" action against the Israeli diplomat carried out by Egyptian "patriots." Kuwait's *AL-WATAN* and Bahrain's *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* also viewed the attack favorably, WAKH noted.

Libya

Following the deportation of 253 Libyans over the past few days for alleged spying, Tunisia ordered the expulsion of 30 Libyan diplomats for carrying out activities "contrary to their diplomatic status," Tunis radio announced. JANA reported that Tunisia deported the JANA correspondent in Tunis after storming the news agency's office and confiscating its receivers and transmitters. Employees of Libyan Arab Airlines in Tunisia were also deported, the agency revealed. In a statement carried by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, the Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau condemned Tunisia for the recent expulsions and said the measures fall within a "large-scale plan" engineered by "imperialist circles" against Libya. The foreign liaison secretary sent Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi a letter protesting the Tunisian decision to expel Libyan officials working at the Arab League, JANA reported.

Meanwhile, Tunis radio reported that the number of Tunisian workers expelled from Libya as of 21 August reached 22,219. In another development, Libya expelled 5,000 Niger nationals accused of being "illegal residents," according to a Niger official interviewed by Niamey radio. As for Egypt, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid sent messages to the UN secretary general and several international organizations urging them to protect the rights of Egyptians working in Libya, Cairo radio reported. He also asked the ILO to send a fact-finding team to Libya to investigate Libya's violation of international laws. Nevertheless, JANA contended that "many" Arab, African, and European organizations have informed Libya of their "total understanding" of the Jamahiriyah's decision to depend on local labor.

Syria-Jordan

Syria and Jordan are financing a free industrial zone on their border, the Jordanian newspaper *SAWT AL-SHA'B* reported citing an official involved in the project.

Sudan

The Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the Council of Ministers announced agreement on legislative arrangements for the transitional period in a joint statement carried by SUNA. The ministers will issue draft laws which will be submitted to the TMC for approval and disputes over legislation between the two councils will be settled by majority vote at a joint session.

DRA-Pakistan

The Afghan Foreign Ministry summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul and rejected a claim that DRA planes violated Pakistani airspace near Parachinar 19 August, Kabul radio reported.

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Foreign Ministry Rejects Air Violation Claim
LD211721 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Today at 1000 hours Pakistan's charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and the following points were made to him by the director of the First Political Section:

The military government of Pakistan, in line with its baseless allegations against the DRA, once again claimed that on 19 August 1985 the air space over the region of (Khas Kalay) near Parachinar had been violated by the DRA Armed Forces.

The DRA, after thorough investigations, considers this claim by the military government of Pakistan to be devoid of truth, rejects it resolutely and states that the Pakistani authorities should cease such false and baseless allegations against the DRA.

Karmal Interviewed on Domestic, Foreign Policy
AU211018 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 20 Aug 85 pp 1, 7

[Interview given by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, to CTK in Kabul; date not given]

[Text] Kabul (CTK) -- Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and chairman of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], has given a CTK correspondent an interview, in which he expressed himself on the topical issues of the Afghan domestic and foreign policy.

[CTK] The people of Democratic Afghanistan this year celebrated the seventh anniversary of the April Revolution. What social and economic changes have occurred in those 7 years?

[Karmal] The April Revolution was victorious under the leadership of the PDPA as the consequence of the inevitable development of our society. The revolution was the reaction of the dissatisfaction of the broadest forces of our society with the reactionary and tyrannical policy of the previous anti-popular regimes, the expression of resistance and rejection of that policy. In harmony with its antifeudal and anti-imperialist character, the revolution gave itself general national and democratic tasks.

The people have warmly welcomed the victory of the April Revolution from the very beginning. However, the development of the revolution was not influenced solely by the legacy of a backward society and the mistakes and deviations that cropped up at its beginnning. It also opposed the intervention and aggression by imperialism and hegemonism, organized from abroad. Today we are encountering a number of complex economic, social, and cultural problems, complicated by the errors and deviations of the first revolutionary stage, and we also are fighting an undeclared war, waged against us by reaction, imperialism, and hegemonism.

The revolution has paved the way for the principled line of development, the leadership of the party has been strengthened in all spheres of the country's social life, and objective foundations have been created for the practical participation of the masses in the revolutionary process. The popular character of the revolutionary transformations has been reafirmed. The urgent tasks of our national democratic revolution, which are being successfully fulfilled, are abolition of the feudal and pre-feudal relations while fully implementing democratic land and water-economy reforms with the active participation of Afghan farmers in this process, and the development of industry.

Step by step, the revolutionary state implements the policy it has set itself with the objective of raising the people's standard of living, improving health care, providing social services to the entire population, eliminating illiteracy in the country, creating and expanding a new system of general and mass education, ensuring equal rights for women, and paying all-round attention to the healthy education and growth of children and youth.

The duties, rights, and freedoms of the people have been enshrined in the document on the fundamental principles of the PDPA, and organizational and political work among masses has been intensified. Extensive measures have been undertaken with the aim of mobilizing the creativity of broad popular masses in the interest of the revolution's development and its defense. In an endeavor aimed at further consolidating the political sovereignty of the working people and its reinforcement among the masses, and aimed at the democratization of social life, the National Patriotic Front was established, which includes 16 social organizations. The DRA's Revolutionary Council approved a law on local agencies of state power and administration which provides a broad base for the participation of the masses in the management of state affairs and in local administration, and is an important step to a further democratization of social life. Under way right now is an extensive preliminary explanatory campaign. Tribal and local meetings are being called together in an effort to create the necessary conditions to implement that law. These meetings elect the best representatives of tribes, ethnic groups and nationalities living in our country, and they play a direct role in the solution of local problems. The revolutionary discipline has profoundly influenced the lives of the people living in the most remote regions of the country, and — day after day — it leads the people to a new life.

But we also should mention that our revolutionary programs are being realized in conditions when an undeclared war, waged by reaction and imperialism against our country is being intensified and increasingly escalated. Imperialism equips professional bandits and mercenaries with the latest weapons and technical means produced in the NATO countries and China, and sends them to our revolutionary country. Because of the fact that the counter-revolution has got itself into social isolation and lost the ability to directly confront the armed forces and the defenders of the revolution in the cities, districts, and the countryside, it is trying to destabilize the situation with the help of small, destructive and terrorist groups attacking the economic and civic institutions and means of transportation. Fortunately, the consolidation and the permanent expansion of revolutionary sovereignty has led to the final defeat of the infamous plans of the counter-revolution.

In today's difficult situation the revolutionary power considers it its duty to ensure the suppression of armed counterrevolution and also the defeat of the conspiracy of reaction, imperialism, and hegemonism. At the same time it gradually ensures conditions for peaceful work and life, and for the implementation of the economic, social, and cultural programs of the national democratic revolution.

One has to recall that our revolutionary power does not satisfy itself with the programs that are being realized, because historically significant and difficult tasks await it, that is, the creation of a new prosperous society.

[CTK] Some of the most important events this year are the local elections in several provinces. What significance do these elections have as regards the further reinforcement of the revolutionary process in the DRA?

[Karmal] The revolutionary power in the DRA springs forth from the unity of workers and farmers, and expresses the interests of all working people. In accordance with this principle, and taking into consideration the traditional characteristics of the tribes, ethnic groups, and nationalities of Afghanistan, the DRA Revolutionary Council, striving for the democratization of social life, approved a law on the local agencies of state power and administration and other measures. The law's objective is to ensure the working people's direct participation in the management of state and social affairs. According to that law, which reflects the interests and aspirations of the people and the specifics of the current stage of the revolution, the local power and administrative agencies will be elected democratically. The application of that law ensures genuine equality and all-round development of nationalities, tribes, and ethnic groups in Afghanistan. With their participation in provincial, district, borough, city, and village councils, the working masses are for the first time truly participating in the solution of state and social affairs. As candidates for the National Patriotic Front, representatives of the people are being elected into the councils and executive committees of the new agencies of power. The establishment of new local agencies of power, which is being carried out in harmony with the increasing participation of the working people through social organizations, leads to the consolidation of the people's power and the enhancement of their social role.

Our working people are taking th first steps toward implementation of the law on the local agencies of state power and administration. The inhabitants of the majority of villages held meetings and elected the leading village bodies. The election of village councils is an important initial step toward achieving that goal, and is a firm foundation for electing representatives of the people into councils in boroughs, districts, and provinces. To date, hundreds of village-level meetings have been held, and this year, too, this process has been permanently expanding.

This year, elections are to be held in various provinces, with the aim of setting up local councils of state power and administration. This is one of the important historical steps undertaken in harmony with the customs and traditions of the Afghan people in an effort to firmly anchor the foundations of democratic society and provide objective foundations for the people's direct participation in the state administration.

Another very important step toward the democratization of social life in our country was the recent successful convocation of the Loya Jirga of representatives of the Afghan people to Kabul. This historic Loya Jirga, in which 1,796 elected representatives of workers, farmers, tradesmen, intellectuals, clergymen, chiefs of tribes and ethnical groups of our united fatherland took part, discussed the most urgent matters concerning our people and society. This Loya Jirga, which is one of the most important political events of recent years in our country and the best proof of our people's solidarity with the revolutionary party and the state, stressed that the friendly, traditional, and historical Afghan-Soviet relations are a reliable guarantee of peace and security in the country, and one of the most important factors for maintaining and strengthening the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our free and independent fatherland. The historical Loya Jirga of the representatives of the Afghan people approved and issued several documents that are important for the life of our people, and declared full support for the party and state decision regarding the closure, protection, and defense of our border as an important element for normalizing the situation around Afghanistan, ending the shameful intervention and interference in our country's internal affairs by reaction and imperialism.

[CTK] The current aggressive foreign policy of the U.S. Government provides broad support to counterrevolutionary elements in this region and puts strong pressure on democratic Afghanistan. What is your opinion regarding prospects for a political, peaceful settlement between the DRA and its neighbors Pakistan and Iran?

[Karmal] The implementation of the revolutionary transformations is not influenced by internal conditions — as the most important factor — alone. Favorable international conditions also play a role. Despite that, the PDPA and the DRA perserveringly safeguard peace in the world and in this region, and are striving to improve relations with the neighboring states of Iran and Pakistan, regardless of their sociopolitical system. They proceed from the principles of respect for sovereignty and national independence, equal rights, territorial integrity, mutual abstension from attack, and noninterference in the internal affairs of another country. But imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, together with the help of the reactionary forces of that region and hegemonism, has become a serious thrteat to our revolutionary fatherland, against which it wages an undeclared war and escalates it from day to day.

They are training thousands of mercenaries, they arm and equip them in training camps for bandits in Pakistan, Iran, and the Chinese autonomous province of Xinjiang, and are sending them to our revolutionary country to cause destruction and spill blood. The United States, in addition to financing the purchase of weapons in Egypt and China, and equipping the counterrevolution with these weapons, has spent more than $1 billion on the undeclared war against our country.

By the end of last year, the number of American military advisers and instructors in more than 120 military training camps in Afghan counter-revolutionary terrorists and bandits on Pakistani territory reached 318. For the fiscal year that began on 1 October 1984, the United States earmarked $280 million for military aid

to Afghan counterrevolutionaries. Similarly, the United States this year is trying to increase the number of training camps and American military advisers and instructors in Pakistan, and even to set up special schools for the systematic military training of the key chieftains of the counterrevolution.

Like U.S. military assistance, the reactionary forces and China also play an important role in this region when it comes to equipping and finding the exported counterrevolution. As an example, we can cite the military aid, amounting to $200 million, from three countries — China, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt — given to the counterrevolution on top of the aid from NATO countries and Israel for armed aggression and intervention.

In an effort to conceal the blatant aggression and intervention of imperialism, reaction, and hegemonism against the DRA, to deceive the world public, and confuse international public opinion as regards the Soviet Union's fraternal and internationalist assistance to Afghanistan, and to distort the true situation in our country and the successes of the April Revolution, imperialism — headed by U.S. imperialism — has unleashed unprecedented psychological warfare against the DRA. U.S. imperialism has already spent millions of dollars in funding this psychological warfare, which is based on deceit and fabrications. Imperialist and reactionary radios broadcast 300 hours a week of hostile and treacherous propaganda against our country in our local and national languages.

To put it concisely, Washington — using Pakistan as a springboard for aggression — has practically become the main command center of the undeclared war against the DRA.

Under these circumstances, and in harmony with the will of our people, we have concentrated all efforts on halting the armed aggression and intervention by imperialism, the reaction and hegemonism vis-a-vis the DRA, and on eliminating tension and creating stability in this region.

In accordance with the principles of its peaceful foreign policy, the DRA has submitted honorable and constructive proposals for a peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan. These proposals incude all the instruments that would make possible the achievement of a realistic, practical solution acceptable to all. The DRA's proposals of 14 May 1980 and of 24 August 1981 show the way. We have always been of the opinion that unresolved and contentious problems in relations with Pakistan and Iran can only be resolved through talks. It is absolutely obvious thatthe solution to existing problems requires a realistic approach by Pakistan and Iran in accordance with the will of their people, andnot their caving in to pressure from Washington and other reactionary forces.

Despite these obstacles we are duly tolerant, and perseveringly pursue the objective of achieving the solution of the existing conflicts and normalizing relations with Pakistan and Iran. We welcomed the UN secretary general's initiative. We wish to take the shortest path, that is, by to talking about the solution of contentious problems directly with our neighbors. Any attempts to prolong the process of negotiations fruitlessly would be irresponsible and at variance with the cause of peace and the security of nations in our region.

'High Evaluation' Given to Recent Elections

LD220626 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 21, BAKHTAR: Elections were held from August 11 to 19 in Kabul Province in a free and democratic atmosphere.

As a result of the elections, 461 representatives of the people to the local councils of the state power and administration were elected in eleven municipal districts of Kabul city. In these elections 442,946 inhabitants of Kabul city had participated. Five of the candidates to the local councils received non-confidence votes and could not be elected as representatives of the people in their respective constituencies.

In the composition of the elected representatives, all the nationalities of the Afghan nation including Pushtoons, Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Noristani, Buluchis, Sikhs and Hindis are included.

There are 40 women among the elected representatives of the people to the local councils of the Kabul city.

Included among the elected representatives are workers, peasants, craftsmen, clergymen, teachers, members of the National Fatherland Front, the democratic youth organisation of Afghanistan and agricultural cooperatives.

One of the most impressing memories of the Kabul (?city) elections is the participation of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, and other high-ranking party and state officials in the elections.

The election commission of Kabul city has given a high evaluation to the election proceedings of Kabul city taken place in a free and democratic (?atmosphere).

Ershad To Call Elections for December 85

HK220928 Hong Kong AFP in English 0903 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 22 (AFP) — Bangladesh military ruler, President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said he plans to hold national polls next winter and allow indoor political activities from the first week of September.

In an interview in *THE BANGLADESH TIMES* today, he said "Inshallah (God willing), polls will be held shortly, maybe next winter."

The polls could be held before December "if the internal situation permits," he said.

In an interview in the pro-government Bengali daily *JANATA TODAY*, he said he hoped the country's opposition would take part in the polls "as once the election dates are fixed, they would not be changed again under any circumstances."

The country's two opposition alliances of 15 and seven parties have refused to participate in national polls in the past two years on the grounds that the voting would not be free or fair under martial law.

President Ershad, who came to power in a bloodless coup in March 1982 and dissolved the national assembly, has thrice postponed national polls and last March imposed strict martial law banning all political activities.

He told the *JANATA* he hoped the opposition "would not repeat their past mistakes... this time either they go for polls or they cease to exist as political parties."

Last May he held a controversial referendum on his rule and policies in which he got an overwhelmning mandate. He left yesterday on a 10-day visit to Saudi Arabia to make a Moslem pilgrimage.

Ershad Interviewed by DPA on Return to Democracy

BK211415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] The Bangladesh president, General Ershad, has pledged to return the country to democracy. But he warned the oppositionparties that he would not tolerate disorderly transition. In an interview with the West German news agency DPA, General Ershad said that he would relax the 5-month-old ban on political activity and allow indoor political assembly from early next month. He said that he wanted to hold polls to elect the new parliament or president.

Departs for Saudi Arabia

BK211609 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Excerpt] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad left Dhaka this afternoon for Saudi Arabia to perform hajj. He is accompanied by Begum Rauhan Ershad and Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

Soviet Delegation Holds Talks With Officials

BK211610 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Bangladesh and Soviet officials held their first round of formal talks in Dhaka. The additional foreign secretary, Mr M. Rizaul Karim, headed the 6-member Bangladesh delegation, while the 5-member Soviet delegation was led by the head of the South Asia desk of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Mr A.I. Volkov.

During their 3-hour meeting, the two sides held discussions on bilateral and international issues. The talks will resume tomorrow morning. The two sides are also expected to discuss the issues likely to be dealt by the 40th UN General Assembly session. Mr Volkov arrived in Dhaka on Monday on a 9-day visit to Bangladesh.

Longowal Death Creates Sikh Leadership Vacuum

HK210858 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 21 Aug 85

[By Jean-Francois Leven]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 21 (AFP) — The assassination of Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal has deprived the moderate faction of the Sikh Akali Dal Party of its only leader, political observers and diplomats said here today.

Mr Longowal's death has also deprived Premier Rajiv Gandhi of a vital negotiating partner in his efforts to pacify the strife-torn northern state of Punjab, they said.

Mr Longowal was mortally wounded when gunmen opened fire as he addressed a political meeting in Punjab yesterday.

For six years Sikhs have been pressing for greater autonomy and other concessions for the Sikh homeland in Punjab, while militants in their ranks have been conducting an often bloody campaign for an independent Sikh state.

Observers said that in the past four months Mr Longowal had become the undisputed leader of the Akali Dal and had succeeded in isolating the party's militant faction.

On July 24 Mr Longowal and Mr Gandhi signed an agreement that paved the way for a return to normality in Punjab.

But Mr Longowal's assassination has created a "total vacuum" in the leadership of the Sikh community and has put the agreement in jeopardy, according to member of parliament and prominent Sikh journalist Khushwant Singh. "It has upset the entire applecart and the future is highly uncertain," he said.

The agreement left Mr Longowal with the task of reuniting his party in time for Punjab State Assembly elections scheduled for September 22.

To this end, a few hours before his death he had thrashed out an electoral alliance with two other Akali Dal leaders — former Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal and Gurcharan Singh Tohra, head of the national committee that manages India's Sikh temples.

Today these two appear likely candidates to succeed Mr Longowal, observers said. However, the observers added that neither of these men had the stature of the dead leader or his ability to influence Sikh moderates.

Moreover, both were slow to back the July 24 agreement, which they found unsatisfactory, and both viewed the prospect of elections with reservations.

Political analysts said that a power vacuum in the Akali Dal could only benefit the militants in the party.

The latter have lost much ground since Mr Gandhi launched his Punjab peace initiative, they said.

However, Mr Longowal's assassination and the killings of three leaders of Mr Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in the past two months have shown that the militants are still capable of violent action both here and in Punjab, the analysts said.

One diplomat said that despite the anti-terrorism law in force in Punjab, the federal government was incapable of ensuring the safety of top politicians, despite the presence of tens of thousands of policemen and soldiers in the state.

Apart from the question of who is to succeed Mr Longowal, observers said that the major issue now was the future of Mr Gandhi's Punjab policy — until now his greatest success since coming to power late last year.

The observers said that they wondered whether he could go ahead with the forthcoming elections as scheduled in an attempt to restore political normality, or whether he would have to delay them and institute a crack-down in Punjab.

Yesterday opposition leaders accused Mr Gandhi of being hasty in calling elections in Punjab so soon.

Both the opposition and some members of the Congress (I) Party close [to] the previous prime minister, the late Indira Gandhi, have said that the premier would have liked to have acted quickly to forestall the militants.

Yesterday marked not only Mr Gandhi's 41st birthday, but also his first serious setback in what the entire Indian political establishment regards as nine months of success, observers remarked.

Barnala Named Acting Head of Akali Dal-Longowal

BK220745 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] The former union agriculture minister and a senior Akali leader, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has been appointed acting president of the Akali Dal-Longowal group. He was appointed at the meeting of the district jathedars [group leaders] of the party at village Longowal soon after the cremation of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal yesterday. Disclosing this in Jullundur, the general secretary of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temples Management] Committee, Mr Kuldip Singh, said 14 district jathedars took part in the meeting.

Police Probe Pakistani Involvement in Murders

HK220759 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 22 Aug 85

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 22 (AFP) — Police today began probing the possibility that Sikh militants trained in Pakistan were responsible for a recent spate of murders here which culminated in the killing of Sikh moderate leader Harchand Singh Longowal, state officials said.

The officials, who asked not to be named, said state and federal intelligence outfits had warned that some 100 hard core Sikh

militants had infiltrated into India from across the border before August 15 — India's independence day — to create disorder in Punjab, a border state.

Pakistan has denied it was running training camps for the militants, who have been waging a bloody battle for independence in Punjab, but officials here say they are convinced that the militants were getting help from across the border.

"Without foreign help, the (militants) would not have succeeded in killing Mr. Longowal and at the same time mount two other attacks the same day," one official said.

Mr. Longowal, chief of the Sikh party, the Akali Dali, who had led an autonomy campaign in Punjab, was shot dead on Tuesday by suspected Sikh militants.

He had signed an accord with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last month ending the autonomy drive. The accord had been rejected by the militants.

Suspected Sikh gunmen on the same day also killed a Hindu priest and a district leader of Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, all in separate incidents in Punjab.

Officials here said it was not difficult to cross Punjab's boundary with Pakistan, despite the increased deployment of Indian border troops there.

Analysis said that any definite evidence of alleged Pakistani involvement found by police would have far reaching consequences on the already strained relationship between India and Pakistan, which have fought several wars.

The murders came as an "eye opener" to federal and state administrations, who had thought that the militants did not enjoy as strong a support among the Sikhs here as has appeared this week.

A state-wide strike called by the Akali Dal and other parties here yesterday to protest Mr. Longowal's murder had about 80 per cent support. There was a visible "lack of mourning" apparently from among the militants, which administrators said worries them.

They said some street clashes between pro-strikers and anti-strikers were symptomatic of deeper unrest.

However some officials said the killing of Mr. Longowal would cause the militants to lose ground in seeking the support of Sikhs not aligned with the moderates or the militants.

"There is no denying the fact that the majority of the Sikhs, including the fence sitters, want an end to violence ... they have had enough, but the killing (of Mr. Longowal) has reopened the whole issue," one analyst here said.

"The deaths came as a grim reminder that it is not all over in the Punjab...it appears we will have to live with killings and more bloodshed," he said.

Two Sikhs were caught on the spot at Mr. Longowal's killing, and police believe two others were involved. Police yesterday raided several places to apprehend militants suspected of involvement in the slayings, but drew blank in all but one place.

A member of the All India Sikh Students Federation, a pro-militant group, was arrested in the Golden Temple in Amritsar, officials said.

Hundreds of militants went into hiding yesterday, the officials said.

A hitherto-unknown Sikh group, calling itself Jarnail Khalsa, has claimed responsibility for the killing of Mr. Longowal as he addressed 5,000 people at a meeting.

An Indian news agency, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI), reported late yeterday that eyewitnesses said one of the assassins was posing as a bodyguard.

Election Commission Awaits Punjab Assessment

HK211550 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 21 (AFP) — The Election Commission of India today said it was waiting for the Punjab administration to answer an urgent query before determining whether polls would be held as scheduled in the state or called off following the slaying of the top moderate Sikh leader, Harchand Singh Longowal.

The poll chief, R.K. Trivedi, told reporters he had dispatched an urgent message to the Punjab chief secretary, the top civil official in the administration, to review and assess the situation following the sant's slaying and report back to the commission as soon as possible.

He said the commission had the power to cancel the notification it issued earlier calling for fresh polls in the northern state to constitute a new Legislative Assembly.

He made his remarks amid reports of uncertainty over whether the polls would be held as scheduled on September 22, and after a joint demand from opposition parties that it be put off.

Seven important opposition parties jointly said in a statement earlier today that the slaying yesterday by suspected Sikh militants of Mr Longowal, chairman of the main Sikh opposition party Akali Dal, had changed the situation in Punjab.

They urged Prime Miniser Rajiv Gandhi's government to put off the polls indefinitely.

The signatories to the statement included both right and left wingers.

Mr Trivedi said the commission would go ahead with the process of holding polls unless the Punjab government informed it of two things:

First, that the situation was not conducive for polling and second, that the government proposed to amend the Constitution to facilitate a further extension of the duration of the federal president's rule of the state.

President Zail Singh took over the Punjab administration on October 6, 1983, as militant violence mounted in the state in the wake of the Akali Dal campaign for greater political autonomy for Punjab.

Under existing rules, the presidential rule is to expire on October 5 at the completion of the maximum allowed period of two years.

A further extension, in the event a new Legislative Assembly was not constituted after a fresh poll, would require a constitutional amendment.

Congress-I, Sikhs Differ

BK220509 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Divergent views have been expressed on the holding of elections in Punjab. The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Srikant Verma, has said there is no justification to the demand for postponement of elections. In a statement in New Delhi, he said in a democratic setup elections are necessary to reflect the will of the people. The assassination of Sant Longowal was a dastardly act and deserves condemnation by all democratic and secular forces in stronger terms. However, postponement of elections will amount to submitting to the forces of terrorism and communalism that have claimed the sant's life, Mr Verma added.

The president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra, has said that the elections in Punjab should be postponed in view of the assassination of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. He was speaking to newsmen in Longowal village yesterday.

The convener of the Sikh Forum, Mr Amrinder Singh, has also asked for the postponement of the elections in the state.

Minister Briefs Parliament on Punjab Violence

BK220905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Parliament was told today that the Punjab government has alerted authorities in the state to be vigilant and to take necessary steps to curb terrorist activities. The home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, said this in the Rajya Sabha while making a statement on the assassination of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal and a shooting incident at Jullundur on Tuesday. The minister said the state government had made arrangements to provide security to Sant Longowal at the known places of meetings scheduled to be addressed by him. Mr Chavan said inside the Gurdwara [Sikh temple] a security team of plainclothed police personnel was available. In addition, a group of commandos was in position in the Gurdwara before the arrival of Sant Longowal. He said it is most unfortunate that, in spite of all these arrangements, this dastardly event had taken place.

About the shooting incident at Jullundur, the home minister said three unidentified persons came to the residence of Gurdial Saini, and two of them who went inside the house sprayed bullets on Mr Saini and Mr D.D. Kullar and others. Mr Kullar succumbed to his injuries, and Mr Saini is reported to be out of danger.

The minister said both Mr Saini and Mr Kullar were provided with police gunmen, but at the time of the incident the gunmen were not present. For their negligence, they have been placed under suspension.

A similar statement was also made in the Lok Sabha.

Seeking clarifications in the Rajya Sabha, opposition members expressed the view that this is an example of complete failure of the security system. They pleaded with the government not to go for elections in Punjab and to consolidate the atmosphere of peace and harmony in the state. The discussion was continuing when last reports came in.

In Chandigarh, the law and order situation in Punjab was reviewed by the state governor, Mr Arjun Singh, at a high-level meeting this morning.

It was stressed at the meeting to intensify efforts to maintain peace in the state. The law enforcing agencies had been asked not to let anybody disturb the peace. The police and paramilitary forces deployed in the state had been asked to strengthen patrolling in the sensitive areas.

Curfew Lifted in Ludhiana; Continues in Khanna

BK211605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Curfew imposed as a precautionary measure in some areas of Ludhiana town this morning has been lifted from 1830 [1300 GMT] in the evening. According to PTI, the curfew in Khanna town will, however, continue till 0600 tomorrow morning.

People's Cooperation Sought on Assam Accord

BK220517 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] The Assam cabinet has appealed to the people to fully subscribe to the Assam accord on foreign nationals issue and cooperate with the government for its expeditious implementation.

In a resolution adopted at an emergency meeting in Guwahati yesterday, the cabinet said that the turn of events in Punjab should be an eye-opener to all sections of the people and guard against the slightest indication of any tension.

The cabinet expressed serious concern over the opposition in certain quarters to the agreement on the foreign nationals issue.

The ruling left front committee in West Bengal expressed its apprehension that the Assam accord, if implemented, will deprive thousands of people of their citizenship.

Spokesman on Steps for Resuming Thimpu Talks

BK220313 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] India is considering fresh steps for the resumption of Thimpu talks between the Tamil militants and the Sri Lankan Government to resolve the ethnic problem in the island republic. An official spokesman said in New Delhi India deeply regrets that certain circumstances have come in the way of resumption of the second round of talks at Thimpu. The situation in Sri Lanka has deteriorated as the cease-fire has not been respected. There has been indiscriminate killing of innocent citizens which is causing concern. New Delhi sincerely hopes that the cease-fire agreement will be strictly adhered to. The spokesman said the process of securing a peaceful solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem must be continued. India will extend its good offices to help reach a political solution to the problem, he added.

Gandhi-Jayewardene Contact

BK221014 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is in contact with the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, regarding the ethnic problem there. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, told the house during question hour that everything possible is being done to help Sri Lanka resolve the problem.

Answering a supplementary, he said the Thimpu talks are deadlocked at the moment and efforts are being made to revive them. Answering a question about the current visit of India's cricket team to Sri Lanka, Mr Khan said politics and games should be kept separate.

New Influx of Sri Lankan Refugees Reported

BK220325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Aug 85

[Text] A report from Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, says there is again an influx of Sri Lankan refugees after an interval of 3 months. The Tamil Nadu minister for rehabilitation, Mr T. Ramaswamy, said that 331 persons belonging to 87 families arrived at Rameswaram on Tuesday following the alleged killing of Tamils in Vavuniya District of Sri Lanka last week. This is said to be the highest number of refugees arriving on a single day.

Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka President Jayewardene has ordered an inquiry into the Vavuniya killings. A government spokesman said in Colombo that the investigations would be conducted under military law. More than 100 Tamils were killed in Vavuniya, allegedly by security forces. The Sri Lankan Defense Ministry had earlier denied the reports.

Minister Addresses Assembly on Village Bombing

BK211122 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] The National Assembly was informed today that Pakistan has the capability to defend the lives and property of its people against Afghan bombing but it has been observing restraint to avoid escalating tension. In a statement about yesterday's unprovoked and cowardly bombing of a village of Parachinar by an Afghan plane, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, said Pakistan will continue its endeavors for a negotiated settlement of the Afghanistan problem and, as far as these cowardly attacks are concerned, it should not be taken for granted that our patience is unlimited. In this context, he referred to the repeated statements of the president and the prime minister that Pakistan has deliberately adopted a policy of restraint on such provocations. This has been done to spare the people living on both sides of the border, who are our Muslim brothers, from the sufferings resulting from an escalation in tension.

Zain Noorani described as the most serious yesterday's attack after the June attack on Chaman by the illegal puppet regime in Kabul. He said that, according to the latest reports, 4 Afghan aircraft penetrated up to 8 miles in Pakistani airspace yesterday and dropped 8 bombs at Kewas village, 4 miles from the border inside Pakistani territory, killing 11 Pakistanis and wounding 19. Many houses were destroyed and a large number of cattle killed as a result of bombing raids.

Zain Noorani said such cowardly attacks on civilian population centers are made only before or during the Geneva talks to escalate tension. He said it is clear that the intention of the perpetrators of these crimes is to undermine the prospects for a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem and added that this problem can be settled only through the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

Interior Minister Denies Atomic Bomb Charge

BK211123 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today disposed of a number of adjournment motions. Mian Mohammad Zaman, who sought to raise discussion on a reported statement of the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] managing director about increasing domestic fares, did not press his adjournment motion after a statement by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani.

Mr Mumtaz Ahmed (Tariq) did not place his adjournment motion following the statement by the interior minister, Mr Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak. He said he has stated on an earlier occasion that there were only six political prisoners in the country and no political prisoner has been arrested at the instance of the federal government. He said he has been receiving a large number of complaints from all parts of the country but no relations of those persons alleged to be arrested and kept in jails as (?prisoners), nor any relation of these alleged prisoners has come to him that his relative is being tortured in a particular jail.

Mr Mohammad Aslam Khattak said it was unfortunate that despite repeated denial, all medias continued to make an allegation that Pakistan was manufacturing atom bomb and inspite of repeated denial Pakistan has been implicated in the Sikh movement in Indian Punjab. He said in the present case the foreign media has made baseless allegation. He asked the member to discuss with him any particular case or cases and assured him that remedial measures will be taken.

Minister Criticizes All India Radio Report

BK221024 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Excerpts] The [Pakistani] National Assembly was prorogued today after completing discussions on the 29-member special committee's report on the future political structure of the country.

Mr Mumtaz Ahmed Taro did not press his adjournment motion which sought to raise discussion on the reported All India Radio [AIR] report that the United States has refused to sell Hawkeye aircraft to Pakistan following the statement made by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani. The minister said the report broadcast by AIR on 19 July 1985 was wrong, misleading, and mischievous.

Karachi Radio Notes Shahnawaz Bhutto Funeral

BK211533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] The late Shahnawaz Bhutto was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh village in Larkana this evening. A large number of people attended the funeral.

Commentary Views Progress of Afghan Talks

BK211440 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The National Assembly of Pakistan was again informed on August the 18th about the indirect talks held at Geneva toward finding a peaceful solution of Afghanistan. The information about the talks was supplied to the house through a question from Mian Mohammad Zaman who wanted to know the progress made in the solution of Afghanistan problem in the recent Geneva talks and whether there is any possibility of finding a solution of this issue in the near future. Replying to the question, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, informed the house about the statement, which was made by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, on his return to Islamabad after attending the Geneva talks on June the 27th in which he had stated that discussions were positive and considerable progress has been made. According to him, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Pakistan had given its full cooperation to the negotiating process because this would contribute not only toward peace of the area but to the security of Pakistan. Pakistan, it may be added, is very keen to see that some peaceful solution

is found to the 6-year-old Afghanistan problem. This has endangered peace in the region and has been responsible for the colossal loss of life on either side.

The Afghanistan issue was created when the Russians marched their troops into that country and tried to destroy its status both as a nonaligned nation and also as a Muslim state. During the Geneva talks, which have completed four rounds and about to go to the fifth, Pakistan has put forward a four-point demand for the solution of the Afghanistan problem. The demands were in fact the demands being made by the United Nations and Nonaligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The demands were: The withdrawal of Russian forces from Afghanistan within an agreed time frame, (?acceptance) of noninterference and nonintervention, the safe and voluntary return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland, and international guarantees. According to Pakistan's point of view, these elements were all interrelated and [word indistinct] between the four of them were to be established in four legal instruments that could collectively form a settlement of the Afghanistan problem. During the next round of talks, some of the drafts of the legal instruments could reach a high state of maturity and precision.

Pakistan has assured the special envoy of the secretary general of the United Nations that it was prepared to extend all possible cooperatioin in finding a peaceful and negotiated settlement because it thinks that force cannot solve the Afghanistan issue. This was amply demonstrated in the last 6 years when, despite the superiority of armaments and numbers, the Russians have not been able to make any gains in Afghanistan and, except for a few pockets, they have been confined to [words indistinct] which again are being repeatedly rocketed and shelled by the mujahidin.

According to Pakistan's policy, it would continue to cooperate in the dialogue in a positive and constructive spirit. While there hasnot been progress yet on a time frame for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, Pakistan entertains cautious optimism about the next round of talks, which would commence on August the 27th at Geneva. So it is too early to speak in terms of [words indistinct] as to what progress has been achieved so far in the talks, but it is admirable that some momentum has been achieved during the last round, and it would be the endeavor of the Pakistan side to maintain it till they meet again on August the 27th. It would be unrealistic to expect a solution of this complicated crisis in the immediate future.

Karachi Cites UN's Cordovez on Afghan Talks

BK220335 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, has said he believes that a solution to the Afghanistan problem is possible through negotiations but this is not an easy task. In an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in New York, he said no major progress can be expected from the next round of indirect talks on Afghanistan. About the progress made at the last round of talks, Cordovez said there are differences between the outlooks of the two sides. He said he has presented a draft which can form the basis for a settlement but the two sides will have to make political decisions in this regard.

Continuing Reportage on Peace Talks With Tamils

Tamils Say Talks 'Terminated'

NC211830 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 21 (AFP) — Sri Lankan Tamil militants today said the second round of talks in Bhutan aimed at resolving Sri Lanka's ethnic crisis had been "terminated" and that the next round depended on their preconditions being met by the Sri Lankan Government, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

In a statement issued at Madras, capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) grouping four major militant Tamil groups said it had instructed other representatives in the Bhutanese capital of Thimpu to return to Madras immediately.

PTI quoted the ENLF as saying that the alleged state violence and terror perpetrated against Sri Lanka's Tamils should end, the ceasefire agreement should strictly be adhered to, and "fresh acceptable proposals" should be made if there was to be a third round of negotiations.

The second round of talks between six militant Tamil groups and Sri Lankan Government representatives was interrupted abruptly on Friday after the Tamil groups walked out in protest against alleged Sri Lankan security forces' massacres of Tamils.

The Sri Lankan Government, however, had said the talks had "temporarily recessed." Diplomatic sources in Colombo had said earlier today that the talks were likely to resume late tomorrow or on Friday.

The ENLF leaders held discussions today with its delegates, who returned to Madras yesterday, PTI said.

The ENLF expressed the hope that the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and another militant group, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) would also take a similar stand.

Three TULF leaders and six representatives of the militants had stayed behind at Thimpu, as had the Sri Lankan official team.

PTI quoted an unnamed delegate as saying that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has offered Indian mediation between the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil militants leaders through "shuttle diplomacy" to evolve a new package of proposals to resolve the Tamil problem.

The delegate told PTI that Mr. Gandhi had proposed that the two sides could convey their views and modifications on the new formula to each other through the Indian Government before meeting in Thimpu for a final round.

This suggestion, made through Indian foreign secretary, Romesh Bhandari, to the Thimpu participants, is to be discussed shortly by the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil groups, PTI said.

Mr. Bhandari, who returned from Thimpu yesterday, today briefed Mr. Gandhi on the discussions he had with both sides after the talks ran into difficulties, it was reported.

Indian Envoy on Adjournment

HK220858 Hong Kong AFP in English 0856 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 22 (AFP) — Peace talks in Bhutan between the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil separatists have collapsed and no date has been fixed for their resumption, the Indian high commissioner said here today.

The envoy, J.N. Dixit said that a resurgence of violence here was one of the reasons for the adjournment of the second round of talks in Thimpu, the Bhutanese capital.

Official sources here said the Sri Lankan Army would tomorrow begin an official inquiry into allegations of a massive civilian killing by soldiers last week.

Mr Dixit met with President Junius Jayewardene and conveyed to him the information from New Delhi that the talks had been adjourned. He said the Tamil delegates from six different groups, had returned to Madras in southern India where most of them live, while the Sri Lankan delegation was on its way back to Colombo via New Delhi.

Army Commander Major-General Nalin Seneviratne today convened an inquiry board, comprising three senior officers from the army, navy and air force, to probe reports that 100 or more civilians were killed last Friday in northern Vavuniya, army sources said.

The official news agency LANKAPUWATH said on Friday that 21 people died "when a landmine placed by Tamil terrorists exploded near the army camp at Vavuniya," suggesting that the victims were killed in the blast.

Vavuniya residents and the area's citizens' committee have said that army shooting following the blast killed at least 100 civilians, mostly Tamils. High ranking sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that no one was killed in the explosion.

Peace talks between the government and Tamil groups were interrupted last Saturday when Tamil groups walked out over the alleged killings.

Mr Dixit said that India would continue its contacts with both sides to explore possibilities of bringing about an agreement "between the approach of the Sri Lanka government and the approach of Tamil groups."

Government delegation leader Harry Jayewardene is expected to meet Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi later today or tomorrow before returning here, Mr Dixit said.

Mr Dixit said without elaborating, that developments late yesterday indicated that the talks could not yet be resumed in a "meaningful manner."

Tamil Separatists Kill 4 in Trincomalee District

HK211256 Hong Kong AFP in English 1157 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 21 (AFP) — Militant Tamil separatists killed four soldiers when they blew up an army jeep in northeastern Sri Lanka today, security sources said as the government announced a probe into the alleged army killing of at least 21 people last Friday.

Cabinet spokesman Anandatissa de Alwis said President Junius Jayewardene told his ministers today he would order the army to hold an immediate inquiry into the "alleged incident."

Some reports have said that up to 100 people died when an army unit opened fire after a mine set by Tamil separatists near an army camp in Vavuniya went off. Official sources have maintained that 21 people died, including some Sinhalese.

Four soldiers died today when Tamil militants detonated a mine that destroyed their jeep and scattered the bodies, security sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Civilians on a bus the soldiers were escorting spotted four people running away from an abandoned house which had been used to set off the blast, they said.

The incident occurred near Dehiwatte in Trincomalee District, which has a mixed population of Sinhalese, Tamils and Moslems and has been the scene of violence in the past week that has killed at least 70, by the official count.

India, which initiated a ceasefire between the government forces and the militants, is understood to have expressed its concern over allegations of the army killings, diplomatic sources said.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi reportedly hinted in a telephone coversation with President Jayewardene yesterday that it would be helpful if the Sri Lankan authorities reined in its forces, the sources said.

The cabinet today approved in principle "very substantial" monetary increases requested by the security forces for training and equipment, the spokesman Mr De Alwis said, without stating the amount. He said the government regretted that the allocation would take away resources from productive areas but that the government must be prepared in case the peace talks fail.

President Jayewardene told the cabinet that "some good results" could be expected from the talks in Bhutan.

Military To Probe Vavuniya Killings

HK220824 Hong Kong AFP in English 0752 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 22 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Army tomorrow is to begin an official inquiry into allegations of a massive civilian killing by soldiers last week, official sources said.

Army Commander Major-General Nalin Seneviratne today convened the inquiry board, comprising three senior officers from the army, navy and air force, to probe reports that 100 or more civilians were killed last Friday in northern Vavuniya, army sources said.

The official news agency LANKAPUWATH said on Friday that 21 people died "when a landmine placed by Tamil terrorists exploded near the army camp at Vavuniya," suggesting that the victims were killed in the blast.

Vavuniya residents and the area's citizens' committee have said that army shooting following the blast killed at least 100 civilians, mostly Tamils. High ranking sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that no one was killed in the explosion.

The three-member board will go to Vavuniya tomorrow to begin investigations and is expected to make its report by next Wednesday, the sources said. The inquiry was appointed on orders of President Junius Jayewardene.

Peace talks between the government and Tamil groups were interrupted last Saturday when Tamil groups walked out over the alleged killings, but diplomatic sources said Indian authorities were to fly some of the Tamils today to Bhutan, where the talks have been taking place. They said the talks were likely to resume today or tomorrow.

Captured Arms Offered to Liberation Groups

LD211708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, at its meeting today the Cabinet decided that weapons confiscated from dissident groups will be made available to liberation movements.

Based upon the same report, these weapons, which have been collected since the revolution, include 106-mm guns, artillery pieces, and 81- and 60-mm mortar-launchers.

Also, during the same meeting the Jask-Kona-Rak Road Project, which may play an important role in the development and security of the country's southern frontiers bordering the Oman Sea, was seriously studied, and will be carried out with determination.

Continuing Reportage on Pilgrimage to Mecca

Demonstrations Planned

GF220518 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit which contained a message from Imam Khomeyni, demonstrations against the superpowers will be held in Mecca today by th hajis [pilgrims] at the sacred house. According to the report, the message was issued in connection with the arrival of hajis at the House of God on 25 Mordad [16 August] and was addressed to the Muslims of the world. It will be broadcast at 1400 hours [1030 GMT] simultaneously with the demonstrations in Mecca.

Mufti Urges Demolition of Mosques

GF210806 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] A Saudi mufti has demanded the demolition of three mosques in the 'Arafat area. The newspaper *AL-NADWAH* reported yesterday that the mufti of Mecca has issued a religious ruling [fatwa] asking that Saudi officials demolish three mosques in Jabal al-Rahmah in the 'Arafat area, even though Muslims use them to perform prayers. The mufti considered such acts a heresy and compared them to the acts of infidels in pre-Islamic [jahiliyah] times.

Khamene'i Receives Congratulations on Reelection

From Syrian, Pakistani Presidents

LD211736 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA — President Khamene'i Wednesday received messages from President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria congratulating him on his re-election to a second term in office.

In one message, President Ziaul Haq expressed the hope that ties between the two countries would continue to further develop in the future years. The Pakistani prime minister too, has congratulated Khamene'i for having won in the presidential elections last week.

'Ali Khamene'i won the presidential election Friday after receiving over 12 million votes.

Prime Minister Meets With Envoy to Libya

LD221254 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Recent pressures applied on the anti-Zionist steadfastness front was discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and the Iranian Ambassador to Libya Hohammad Kazem Khonsari here Thursday.

The front which includes Libya, Algeria and Syria, is an anti-Israeli coalition determined to keep the war against the Israeli regime alive.

Musavi told the ambassador that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the anti-imperialist stand of the Libyan Government. He referred to the upcoming summit of the Non-Aligned Movement as the next international venue where the issue can be discussed.

Velayati Interviewed on Talks with SFRY's Dizdarevic

LD211233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] In an interview with our reporter concerning the discussions he had with the SFRY Foreign Minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati provided some details to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Velayati, please let us know about the results of your discussions with this delegation and how do you envisage future relations between the two countries.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The visit of SFRY Foreign Minister Mr Raif Dizdarevic, on the eve of the nonaligned conference in Luanda, the capital of Angola, was a very timely and useful one. As a most active member of the Nonaligned Movement, Yugoslav officials make visits to member countries of the Nonaligned Movement. A few weeks ago they again started such visits, and one of the countries so designated was the Islamic Republic of Iran. At these meetings we had important discussions concerning the summit meeting during the eighth session. We hope we can reach final decisions concerning this matter in Luanda. We also had discussions about the issues which will be discussed at the conference of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement. We discussed such diverse issues as Palestine, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Namibia; Central America, Nicaragua, and the economic difficulties of the Third World; hunger and famine in Africa; the difficulties the world is facing concerning disarmament and the role which Third World countries can play, as well as ways of preventing disunity in the nonaligned conference and making practical decisions there.

Concerning bilateral relations, I should point out that during the past year our trade with Yugoslavia ammounted to about $400 million. Both sides would like the exchanges to be increased. There is sufficient scope and opportunity for this to happen. Mr Dizdarevic invited me to visit to Belgrade, an invitation I accepted. [End recording]

Meets IRGC Commander

LD220848 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Members of the Lebanese Hezbollah delegation headed by Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli who are currently visiting Iran met and conferred with commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rezai'e here Wednesday.

During the meeting, Rezai'e referred to the special situation of Lebanon in the world arena and hailed constant compaigns of Lebanese Muslims against imperialism, world oppression and in repelling American, French and Zionist forces from that country.

He added that the expansion of the Islamic revolution and the growth of Islamic and popular movements has panicked the world oppression since its colonialistic interests have been badly endangered.

Under such circumstances, he said, the Lebanese Muslim people should strengthen their military and political power and not hesitate defending Islam and their country.

He noted that the enemies of Islam were trying to halt these liberation movements throughout the world.

Press Conference Held

LD221045 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Head of the visiting Lebanese Hezbollah delegation Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said here Wednesday [as received] that the objective of their visit to Iran is to announce solidarity of Lebanese Muslims with the Iranian nation under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. Speaking in a press conference here, he praised Iran's support for struggles of Lebanese Muslims against the United States and the Zionist regime.

Stressing the unity of world Muslims with the Islamic revolution of Iran against oppressive forces, he described clashes at Palestinian camps as efforts to annihilate unity among Muslims.

He condemned the expulsion of Lebanese Muslims residing in Kuwait and said that recent extraordinary Arab summit meet in Casablanca was aimed at supporting Iraqi aggression against the Islamic revolution.

Further referring to the Iraqi-imposed war upon Iran and its connection to the current situation in Lebanon, Shaykh al-Tufayli said that imperialism has hatched a series of plots against Islam since the victory of the Islamic revolution.

On the future of Lebanon, he said that they will try to establish an Islamic society there adding that the future of Lebanon is not separate from that of Palestine and noted that the liberation of the latter would lead to the liberation of Lebanon.

Another member of the delegation, Husayn al-Musawi (Abu Hisham) called for the escalation of campaigns against the Zionist regime by Palestinians and announced the support of the Hezbollah for these struggles.

Stressing that the struggles would continue until the United States and West change their policies, Abu Hisham called on the French nation to pressure their government to change its policies towards the Zionist and Iraqi regimes.

He denied allegations that the Lebanese Hezbollah was responsible for the kidnapping of Americans and Frenchmen in Lebanon.

On the recent explosions in Beirut, he said they were against killing innocent people, especially Christian children, and called on the Phalangists to give up enmity with Muslims and refrain from following the Zionist regime.

He also refuted allegations that the Shi'ite Muslims had hands in the recent explosion at one of the Spanish restaurants, adding that they had nothing to do with those who were not fighting with them.

In conclusion, he said that as Muslims repelled foreign forces from Lebanon, they are now able to curtail the hands of reactionaries from that country.

Further Details

GF220845 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Excerpts] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Abu Hisham, leaders of the Lebanese Hezbollah party delegation visiting Iran, held a press conference in Tehran yesterday to answer the questions of domestic and foreign press, radio, and television correspondents.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, a Lebanese Hezbollah leader, read a statement in which he expressed pleasure in the visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We have come to Iran to express the Lebanese people's solidarity with the Muslim nation of Iran. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli praised Iran's support for the struggle of Lebanese Muslims against the United States and Israel.

Referring to the struggle of the Lebanese Muslims which resulted in the Israeli forces fleeing from Lebanon, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said: The Lebanese Hezbollah Party condemns the current talks with the Phalange Party, a mercenary of the United States and Israel, and it rejects the resolutions arrived at in Geneva and Lusanne. He said: The Lebanese Hezbollah Party will reject any new agreement based on establishing ties with the Phalange Party.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, while opposing the founding of the new political party — the "National Unity Front" — in Lebanon, called it an effort to ignore the struggle of the Lebanese people against the criminal Israel regime. He stated: The Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries single-handedly fought against the Zionists; the others joined later. It was the Muslims that ousted the multi-national forces from Lebanon. He said that the program of this party [National Unity Front] is anti-Islamic. He added: The only way to oust Zionists and foreigners from Lebanon is by the struggle of the Lebanese Muslims and by halting hegemony in Lebanon. All other methods are impractical.

Speaking on the need for unity among all Muslims with the Islamic revolution in Iran against the superpower forces, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli stated that the Palestinian camps wars were designed to destroy unity among the Muslims. He added: We condemn the traitorous activities of Yasir 'Arafat and the reactionary Arab regimes which have surrendered, including the regimes in Egypt and Jordan. We back the Palestinians' struggle against the Israeli occupationists. We condemn all attempts to destroy the unity of Lebanese Muslims. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli condemned the ouster of Muslims from Kuwait and called the Casablanca Arab leaders conference an attempt to support aggression against the Islamic revolution and to support Saddam. He stated that the killing of the Israeli diplomat in Cairo was the best proof of the continued struggle until victory.

During the press conference, Abu Hisham, the other leader of Lebanese Muslims, praised the support of the Hezbollah Party for the fighting people of Palestine and called for intensifying the Palestinian people's struggle against the Israeli regime.

Responding to a question concerning the rejection of the National Unity Front's program, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said: We reject their program because we believe that the Muslim nation in Lebanon should be allowed to choose their own type of government. We want Islam to prevail in Lebanon.

Paper on Cairo Assassination, Islamic Resurgence
GF211100 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 21 Aug 85

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the heading "The Armed Popular Struggle in Egypt", *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI* wrote: Amid the feverish normalization activity that Mubarak's regime is carrying out with the Zionists; amid the intensification of the efforts calling for the implementation of Reagan's initiative, which consecrates the settlement presence in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and occupied Palestinian towns; amid the continued exchange of visits among the officials of Cairo, Amman, and Baghdad in order to establish an Arab axis serving the schemes of Washington and Tel Aviv that will later become a military alliance along similar lines of the ill-omened Baghdad alliance; amid Mubarak's continued efforts to link the Egyptian Army to NATO by signing military protocols with NATO countries and holding joint exercises inside the Egyptian territorie -- most recently the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force maneuvers, which made a comprehensive survey of the territories of the neighboring countries -- amid all this, the Islamic revolutionary consciousness, which is opposed to colonialism and Zionism, grows in most social Egyptian sectors that have moved away from repressed anger and dismay to armed popular struggle. The masses have imposed a suffocating isolation on Mubarak's regime through student and worker uprisings that have erupted in Egyptian cities throughout 1984 and early 1985.

International news agencies yesterday reported the lightning attack by the Muslim revolutionaries against senior terrorists at the Zionist embassy in Cairo — part of the developing and continuing operations of armed struggle. The attack resulted in the death of the administrative attache and the wounding of two female officers who work for Mosad.

We believe that this operation has proven to the entire world that the present capabilities of the revolutionaries are enough to destroy the symbols of the regime and the dens of Zionist and U.S. espionage, and that the coming days will witness a great battle between the Egyptian regime and the people. It will end in the triumph of the people over Mubarak and the birth of an Islamic revolutionary regime that is opposed to capitulatory policy and U.S. monopolies.

Tehran on Reasons for 'Failure' of Murphy Tour
GF220626 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 22 Aug 85

[From the "Pause With Events" program]

[Excerpts] Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, has returned to Washington following a 5-day tour of the Middle East. Murphy visited Jordan, occupied Palestine, and Egypt. He returned to Jordan once again at the conclusion of his tour, to hear the latest theories of King Husayn and 'Arafat.

During this new stage of Murphy's visit, the focus of the talks was on the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which would conduct talks with the United States and the Zionist entity about the so-called peace in the Middle East. The plan to form this delegation was drawn up in February, after an accord was reached in Amman between King Husayn and 'Arafat to move jointly to establish the so-called peace in the region and to consequently establish a Palestinian state in the West Bank, under Jordan's supervision.

During his visit to occupied Palestine, Murphy discussed the problem of including certain members in the proposed Palestinian delegation. After his visit to Egypt and his talks with Husni Mubarak, he returned to Amman once again. It was announced that there was little progress.

The question is: Is Israel's insistence on approving members of the joint delegation a reason for the failure of Murphy's visit? Political circles in the Middle East have a number of theories concerning Murphy's visit to the region. First, after the failure of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca, the United States was convinced it could propose its plans to settle the Middle East crisis without taking progressive countries into

consideration. Second, there are still some individuals within 'Arafat's wing who cannot justify all of his bargaining and there is a possibility, however slim, that a split will take place in 'Arafat's wing. Third, the main obstacle obstructing these talks, and which no one can easily remove, is the Islamic revival in the Middle East and the religious feelings of the region's people.

The recent incidents in Egypt against the ruling regime to protest compromise with the Zionist entity, the victory of Muslims in Lebanon over Zionists, and the mounting Islamic revolution are all considered symptoms of this main obstacle, which obstructs compromise and capitulation. This obstacle is being made more firm with the passage of time through the Muslims' sacrifices.

Tehran Commentary on Musavi Press Conference
GF210755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0443 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The fourth round of presidential elections for the Islamic Republic of Iran successfully took place last Friday with extensive participation by the Muslim people of Iran. The elections were held in a completely healthy and secure atmosphere and the activities of the enemies of the Islamic Republic aimed at weakening the election were unsuccessful.

According to the latest ballot counts and statistics, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i received the majority of votes in this election and thus was reelected president. Now that the fever of election propaganda has broken and the final results are available, let us take a look at the past 4 years.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i took the reigns 4 years ago during a time of most sensitive and critical conditions. During this period, the government of the Islamic Republic started to solve many national problems and difficulties. The government of the Islamic Republic, over the course of the past 4 years of activity, was mostly involved with the problems and difficulties stemming from the imposed war. The government, creating and adopting special economic policies and utilizing full popular support during this period managed to rescue an almost completely collapsed economy and at the same time shoulder the burden of war and its immense cost without the least reliance on foreign governments or capital.

This occurred at a time when our enemy, the Zionist regime of Iraq, received $40 billion in aid to supplement $36 billion in foreign reserves it had when the war began. Some of its aid was in the form of free donations. At his press conference yesterday [as heard] the prime minister said: We have had none of this. We did not borrow even one dollar from other countries. We have had no such help, but we have God instead.

During his speech, the prime minister, referring to the domestic economy and the control of prices and inflation, noted that the government, through its immense efforts, has reduced inflation from 25 percent to 4.3 percent and that one of the priorities of the government has been to fix the price of essential goods in high demand in the society. Concerning other activities and operations of the government, the prime minister noted that the revolution belongs to the bare-footed, that the sovereignty of the country is maintained by the oppressed and the deprived masses, and that the government considers it an honor to have slogans on behalf of the oppressed. He also announced: We do not stop at slogans, but act as well. Any other government in power, if it wishes to be in touch with the people, will have to work for the oppressed.

The prime minister also noted that service for the oppressed is a lesson learned from the Koran, Nahj ol-Balagheh, the clergy, and the imam of ummah. Engineer Musavi then discussed the press and mass media and said: It can be noted that Voice and Vision and the press are operating in an atmosphere completely free from government pressure. He went on to thank Voice and Vision and the press for their timely criticism and support and added: When one wants to criticize, especially if such criticism applies to the total work of the government, the society, or the system, it is better to also note the good things as well in order to avoid disappointment, because if services are encouraged and noted, they will grow.

The prime minister made a general statement about the issue of criticism saying: A society without criticism and discussion will tilt toward repression and dictatorship. It should be noted that any government and system has some shortcomings and problems in its operations and is unable to completely eradicate all problems. Naturally the government of the Islamic Republic is not an exception to this rule. This is where the very important issue of the presence of (?constructive) criticism in society emerges. The importance and necessity of discussions, criticism, and sensitivity toward issues stems from the fact that criticism usually reveals shortcomings and problems in a system and alerts officials who would take appropriate measures. Therefore, healthy criticism can be considered the most necessary element for the progress and moral growth of a country.

The government of the Islamic Republic, has done its best, in the face of various pressures, with sincere concern for the benefits of the oppressed during its term of office. It seems that a lack of criticism and an insensitivity toward the various operations of the administrative branch have created some misunderstandings that may on occasion even stem from lack of faith. It is the duty of all people, officials, and the mass media to review the affairs of the Islamic Republic on a timely basis, and while noting progress and successes and praising the efforts of the servants of the people, outline all shortages and problems at all levels and strongly avoid neutrality. Too much criticism can ultimately reach a level not at all good for a healthy society.

People, officials, and the mass media should sincerely discuss and review any shortcomings they see at the first opportunity, as it is their duty, and urge officials to deal with them. Such an attitude should become our public duty and goal. As we said, healthy criticism removes any opportunity for international moves to weaken the system of the Islamic Republic by those who are looking for such opportunities. It also leads to the eradication of problems.

Japan To Build Power Station in Hamadan

GF220610 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Aug 85

[Excerpts] According to a report by the radio and television organization, under an agreement signed yesterday between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan, Japan will take part in building a 1,000 megawatt power station in the western part of the country. The agreement was signed in Tehran by Minister of Energy Mr Ghafuri-Fard and Japanese Charge d'Affaires Mr (Tanabe). The thermal power station, to consist of four units each producing 250 megawatts, will be built on a 400 hectare area in the Famanin region, 45 km from Hamadan.

The first unit of the powerhouse is expected to be commissioned in 1368 [1989]. Power will be supplied from a gas pipeline. Twelve international companies were invited to bid for contract. The Japanese Mitsubishi Company won the first approval concerning the financial and technical proposals made. As a result, an agreement to set up a turbo-generator costing about 15.8 billion rials was signed yesterday.

Truck Convoy Opens Freight Run From Turkey

LD211527 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA — The first convoy of Iranian trucks carrying Turkish goods is on its way home, said the head of the International Transport Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ankara Tuesday.

Zakeri Hanjani, the transport company's managing director said that the 23 trucks, carrying 20,000 tons [as received] of steel bars, left Gizeh township 40 km east of Istanbul Tuesday.

Trade between Turkey and the Islamic Republic stands at over two billion dollars but Iran up till now has had no share in the transportation of Turkish goods to the country.

Agreement for Iranian participation in transportation was reached when Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi visited Turkey last year. The International Transport Comapny, a state supervised organization, is responsible for the operations.

Muslim Revolutionaries, Iraqi Forces Clash

GF211910 Mashhad International Service in Dari 1430 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, in continuation of their attacks on the Ba'thist Zionist regime of Iraq, last week on 17 August shot down a fighter aircraft of the Iraqi regime in northern Iraq. According to eyewitness accounts, this aircraft was attepmting to attack the Iraqi revolutionaires on the [words indistinct] highway to prevent them from advancing. According to reports from Iraq the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries eventually gained control of the highway, and killed several Iraqi soldiers, destroying one of their vehicles.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraq Shells Abadan, Khorramshahr

GF211451 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Two jet fighters of the aggressive regime of Iraq at 0837 [0507 GMT] and 0852 [0522 GMT] today violated the airspace of the steadfast towns of Abadan and Khorramshahr, but they were faced with severe anti-aircraft fire and were forced to flee without being able to enter into action.

According to the Central News Unit from Abadan, because of the enemy's heavy artillery barrage on civilian areas in this town, three houses were damaged and one citizen in Abadan was martyred.

Communique No 2,204

LD211607 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire killed or wounded more than 30 Iraqi troops in northern frontlines during the past 24 hours, as Iraqi troops were attempting to plant mines in the region, the Joint Staff Command reported in its communique number 2204 Wednesday.

The communique added that 12 tanks, two heavy and a number of light vehicles and some munitions depots and bunkers of the Iraqi enemy in these fronts were also wrecked by the Muslim fighters' fire.

In the central fronts, over 20 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded during the exchange of artillery and mortar fire, which also destroyed six group bunkers and observation posts, two tanks and three vehicles of the Iraqi forces, the Command said.

It added that sporadic artillery fire was traded between Iran's Muslim combatants and the Iraqi Ba'thist forces in the southern fronts, being heavier in Hoseyniyeh region, inflicting substantial casualties and damage on the Iraqi personnel.

Iran's Gendarmerie units stationed in Arvand River opened heavy fire on Iraqi troops' positions, disrupting the enemy's engineering movements and destroying eight bunkers, a vehicle and a munitions depot of Iraqi troops, the communique said.

It added that the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was subjected to heavy Iraqi long-range artillery fire during the past 24 hours, causing damages to three houses.

Nejat-e Iran on Plans to Partition Lebanon

GF211800 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] We have a special report from our correspondent in Tehran. He says: The Khomeyni regime wants to impose its devilish thoughts and ideas on the people of Lebanon to open the way for the establishment of an Islamic Republic in that country.

As a first step, in the vast Al-Biqa' Valley in Lebanon, it wants to establish an independent Islamic republic.

The purpose of calling Husayn Musavi and Subhi al-Tufayli to Tehran is to hold talks on this matter. The Nejat-e Iran reporter adds: The regime mullahs are prepared to pay the necessary fees for this task and also to provide the necessary weaponry for the Islamic Amal and the Lebanese Hezbollah. The Khomeyni regime has also promised to send a large group of Revolutionary Guards and its own military experts to the Al-Biqa' area of Lebanon to train the other terrorists in the establishment of an Islamic Republic in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

Nejat-e Iran: Power Struggle After Elections
GF211914 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] As was predicted, soon after the announcement of the fake results of Khomeyni's preplanned presidential elections, there was a significant power struggle among the regime's high-level personalities over the position of the mullahs' premiership.

Political analysts and diplomats residing in Tehran feel that Mir Hoseyn Musavi will soon be removed from the post and another son-of-a-mullah will be chosen as prime minister of the mullahs' republic.

A terrorist of the regime, Mahmud Kashani, who according to him has received 2 million votes, has launched an all-out effort to become the regime's prime minister. He is distributing leaflets and booklets in various towns, accusing Musavi and his cabinet of robbery, abuse, and bribery.

In this midst the other terrorist element of the Islamic Republic, Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi, is in round-the-clock contact with bazaar merchants who are his lackeys to form an Islamic party.

One foreign diplomat in Tehran said: From the behavior of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the powerful man of the Islamic Republic, it can be gathered that he is preparing the groundwork for a military coup with the help of those revolutionary guards who support him.

In another report on the issue, it was mentioned that Mehdi Bazargan and his clique have so far remained totally silent on the elections and their results. It is said that the threats of Hadi Ghaffari have worked. Ghaffari is the leader of the regime's terrorists [hezbollah] and last week he swore that after the presidential election he would take care of all opposition members, including liberals, meaning Bazargan and his group.

Free Voice of Iran: Pilgrims Ask for Asylum
GF211905 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Eighteen Iranian pilgrims at the hajj have applied to the Saudi Arabian Government for asylum. The Iranians seeking asylum are presently under the care of the Saudi police. The 18 have asked to be sent to European countries. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not yet announced its decision on the Iranian political refugees.

According to our reporters the issue of 18 Iranians seeking asylum in Saudi has caused great embarrassment for the regime of Ayatollah Khomeyni among the Muslims of the world who have now gathered in Saudi Arabia.

In addition to this another group of Iranian pilgrims — with the complaints that they have made of the clerical regime in Tehran — have besmirched the name of the Khomeyni regime. It is said that many of the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca and Medina are not cooperating with the Revolutionary Guards, the hezbollahis, and other elements of the regime and have joined the other groups of pilgrims. Their complaints about the present regime in Tehran and their criticism of the Islamic Republic have made many things clear to millions of Muslims in the world who are on the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

Last year a group of Iranian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia chose the hajj pilgrimage as a means of escape from the hell that is the Islamic Republic of Khomeyni and sought asylum in Saudi Arabia.

According to reports from Saudi Arabia the Islamic Republic regime has only managed to send 90,000 pilgrims to the hajj this year. This regime had previously boasted that it was about to send some 150,000 pilgrims, but the Saudi Government had replied that they were only to send as many pilgrims as they did last year, which was about 100,000. The mullahs of Tehran have remained silent concerning their compromise with the Saudis.

In the meantime, according to a report from Tehran, the clerical regime intends to send a group of their elements among the Afghan refugees going on the pilgrimage this year. This coincides with a report which indicates that the Saudi police is watching the situation carefully.

70 Joint Forces Killed in Afghanistan
LD211526 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Zahedan, Aug. 21, IRNA — Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed 70 Afghan joint forces militia troops last week in a series of attacks against Karmal troops in Karizak region, Farah Province.

Five government officials among them commander of the Karizak military base, were taken captive by the mujahidin and a considerable amount of weapons and munitions were seized as war booty.